

Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction on the grounds that the Office has not provided adequate reasons and/or examples to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the identified groups.

The Office has characterized the inventions of Groups I and II (III or IV) as “unrelated” inventions. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has merely concluded that the inventions of Groups I-IV are “unrelated”, and has provided no reasons and/or examples in support of this conclusion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement for restriction is improper, and request that it be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants note that the M.P.E.P. describes unrelated inventions as, for example, “an article of apparel such as a shoe, and a locomotive bearing”, or “a process of painting a house and a process of boring a well.” M.P.E.P. § 806.04(A). Thus, unrelated inventions, as defined by the M.P.E.P., are inventions which are directed to *completely* different technical fields, and have no reasonable relationship with each other. Applicants make no statement regarding the patentable distinctness of the inventions of Groups I-IV. However, Applicants fail to see how the inventions of Groups I-IV meet the standards of “unrelatedness” of M.P.E.P. § 806.04(A), discussed above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement for restriction is improper, and request that it be withdrawn.

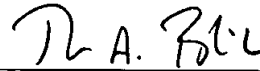
Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that although the Office states that a search of all the claims “would be burdensome”, the Office has not provided any reasons in support of this conclusion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement for restriction is improper, and request that it be withdrawn.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the requirement for restriction. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Office withdraw the requirement for restriction.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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